

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 237114

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DRAFTED BY D/HA:ORM:SCLOWMAN:CAF

APPROVED BY D/HA:JMWILSON

EUR/CE - K. KURZE

EUR/WE - J SMITH

EUR/CAN - D. BLAKEMORE

EA/ANP - T. WODJA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: SUBJECT INDOCHINESE REFUGEES; "BOAT CASES"

1. THE COORDINATOR FOR HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS, JAMES WILSON
MET SEPTEMBER 15 WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM CANADIAN, GERMAN,
FRENCH AND AUSTRALIAN EMBASSIES TO DISCUSS PROBLEM OF INDO-
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PAGE 02 STATE 237114

CHINESE "BOAT CASES".

2. WILSON OUTLINED CURRENT STATUS IN SOUTH EAST ASIA IN TERMS OF NUMBERS OF BOAT CASE REFUGEES AND ATTITUDES AND CURRENT PRACTICES OF SEA GOVERNMENTS. HE EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN OF USG AT THIS HUMANITARIAN PROBLEM AND OUR EARNEST HOPE THAT WELL CONCEIVED APPEAL ON THIS MATTER BY UNHCR WILL ELICIT NECESSARY RESPONSE TO SUPPORT A TRULY INTERNATIONAL SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM.

3. STRESSING THAT THE FOUR GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTED AT THIS MEETING HAD DONE THE MOST TO MEET THE INITIAL PROBLEM OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES, WILSON SUGGESTED THAT THESE GOVERNMENTS HAD THE BEST CREDENTIALS TO URGE OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO CONTRIBUTE TO SOLUTION OF BOAT CASE PROBLEM. HE NOTED THAT THE UNHCR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING WAS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 4 AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE FOUR GOVERNMENTS COULD JOIN US IN SUPPORTING THE UNHCR APPEAL AT THAT TIME AND IN URGING OTHERS TO DO SO AS WELL.

4. CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE (COUNSELOR BOEHM) SAID CANADIANS HAD TAKEN 33 "BOAT CASE" REFUGEES AND WOULD BE TAKING ANOTHER 120. HE SAID THAT CANADA HAD NO PRESENT PLANS BEYOND THIS FOR MAKING SPACE AVAILABLE.

5. AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVE (COUNSELOR ARGALL) NOTED MOST COUNTRIES IN THE AREA TO WHOM AUSTRALIA MIGHT MAKE REPRESENTATIONS WOULD EXPECT AUSTRALIA TO CONTINUE TO TAKE THE LEAD IN MAKING SPACE FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES.

6. GERMAN REPRESENTATIVE (COUNSELOR VON SCHMELING) SAID THAT FRG IMMIGRATION LARGELY MONOPOLIZED BY IMMIGRATION FROM POLAND BUT NOTED THAT THE NUMBERS INVOLVED IN THE "BOAT CASES" ARE SMALL. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE SLOW GERMAN RESPONSE DUE TO THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONSULT WITH THE LAENDER BEFORE MAKING ANY COMMITMENT ON IMMIGRATION MATTERS.

7. ALL PARTICIPANTS AGREED TO DISCUSS WITH THEIR GOVERNMENTS THE POSSIBILITY OF URGING OTHER COUNTRIES TO DO MORE IN SEEKING SOLUTIONS TO THE "BOAT CASE" PROBLEM. THEY ALSO AGREED TO TRANSMIT OUR REQUEST THAT THEY JOIN IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 237114

SUPPORTING THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S APPEAL ON INDOCHINESE "BOAT CASES" AT THE FORTHCOMING UNHCR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING ON OCTOBER 4. ACTION ADDRESSES SHOULD BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT DEPARTMENT INITIATIVE IF SUBJECT RAISED BY HOST GOVERNMENTS. KISSINGER

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